



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 1226

LCO No. 4404

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Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FALL PREVENTION PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Public Health shall establish a fall prevention program. Within such
3 program, the commissioner shall:

4 (1) Promote and support research to: (A) Improve the identification,
5 diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of older adults and others who
6 have a high risk of falling; (B) improve data collection and analysis to
7 identify risk factors for falls and factors that reduce the likelihood of
8 falls; (C) design, implement and evaluate the most effective fall
9 prevention interventions; (D) improve intervention strategies that have
10 been proven effective in reducing falls by tailoring such strategies to
11 specific populations of older adults; (E) maximize the dissemination of
12 proven, effective fall prevention interventions; (F) assess the risk of
13 falls occurring in various settings; (G) identify barriers to the adoption
14 of proven interventions with respect to the prevention of falls among
15 older adults; (H) develop, implement and evaluate the most effective
16 approaches to reducing falls among high-risk older adults living in
17 communities and long-term care and assisted living facilities; and (I)

18 evaluate the effectiveness of community programs designed to prevent
19 falls among older adults.

20 (2) Establish, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social
21 Services, a professional education program in fall prevention,
22 evaluation and management for physicians, allied health professionals
23 and other health care providers who provide services for the elderly in
24 this state. The commissioner may contract for the establishment of
25 such program through (A) a request for proposal process, (B) a
26 competitive grant program, or (C) cooperative agreements with
27 qualified organizations, institutions or consortia of qualified
28 organizations and institutions.

29 (3) Oversee and support demonstration and research projects to be
30 carried out by qualified organizations, institutions or consortia of
31 qualified organizations and institutions in the following areas:

32 (A) Targeted fall risk screening and referral programs;

33 (B) Programs designed for community-dwelling older adults that
34 use fall intervention approaches, including physical activity,
35 medication assessment and reduction of medication when possible,
36 vision enhancement and home-modification strategies;

37 (C) Programs that target new fall victims who are at a high risk for
38 second falls and that are designed to maximize independence and
39 quality of life for older adults, particularly those older adults with
40 functional limitations; and

41 (D) Private sector and public-private partnerships to develop
42 technologies to prevent falls among older adults and prevent or reduce
43 injuries when falls occur; and

44 (4) Award grants, contracts or cooperative agreements to qualified
45 organizations, institutions or consortia of qualified organizations and
46 institutions to design, implement and evaluate fall prevention
47 programs using proven intervention strategies in residential and

48 institutional settings.

49 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Public Health
 50 shall convene a working group to study the effects of falls on health
 51 care costs, the potential for reducing falls and the most effective
 52 strategies for reducing health care costs associated with falls. The
 53 working group shall consist of the Commissioners of Public Health,
 54 Social Services and Aging, or their designees, the chairpersons and
 55 ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General
 56 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health, or
 57 their designees, and any other person the Commissioner of Public
 58 Health and the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the
 59 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
 60 health deem necessary.

61 (b) The Commissioner of Public Health may enter into contracts
 62 with consultants to assist in the completion of the study authorized by
 63 this section.

64 (c) Not later than January 1, 2008, the Commissioner of Public
 65 Health shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
 66 of the general statutes, a report of the working group's findings and
 67 recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General
 68 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and
 69 social services and to the select committee of the General Assembly
 70 having cognizance of matters relating to aging.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Department of Public Health to establish a fall prevention program.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]